

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David S. Bir on June 16, 2009. On June 18, 2009, Mr. Bir authorized the examiner to remove the some formatting error (underlines) from claim 41.

Please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claim 33 and claim 43.

Please amend claims 1, 25, 31, 35 and 41 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
receiving a design list for a plurality of network servers, the design list comprising functions of the a network, amount of hardware for the network, type of hardware for the network and number of WAN IP addresses assigned to the network;
generating a plurality of network designs for the plurality of network servers based upon a design rule and the design list, further comprising receiving a first network design of the plurality of network designs, and wherein the design rule determines a first server in the network is a gateway server layered in a network location, ~~such that~~ and wherein the gateway server is first in receiving all incoming data packets to the network;

configuring software and hardware settings for the plurality of network servers in the network, the software and hardware settings including switches, jumpers, IP address, links, ports and values of software parameters, the configuration of the software and hardware settings based upon the design rule and the first network design wherein the software and hardware settings are determined to provide cohesive network settings operable to interconnect the plurality of network servers;

building a respective digital image with the software and hardware settings for each of the plurality of servers, each design corresponding to a digital image for a respective network server, the plurality of servers having a different server type than the first server and operable to support dissimilar operations; and

deploying each of the respective digital images onto the plurality of servers without user intervention except to provide the number of WAN IP addresses.

25. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer apparatus having a~~ computer readable storage medium encoded with a set of instructions that, when executed by a processor in the computer, cause the computer to perform a method, the computer ~~apparatus~~ readable storage medium comprising:

a graphic user interface having a function to receive a design list for a plurality of network servers, the design list comprising functions of ~~the a~~ network, amount of hardware for the network, type of hardware for the network, and number of WAN IP addresses assigned to the network;

design rule logic having design instructions, wherein the design instructions determine a first server in the network is a gateway server layered in a network location, ~~such that and~~ wherein the gateway server is first to receive all incoming data packets to the network;

network topology logic having a function to generate a plurality of network designs for the plurality of network servers according to the design list and the design instructions, wherein a first design of the plurality of network designs is selected through the graphic user interface;

configuration logic to configure software and hardware settings for the plurality of network servers in the network, the software and hardware settings including switches, jumpers, IP address, links, ports and values of software parameters, the configuration of the software and hardware settings based upon the design instructions and the first network design;

digital image building logic to build a respective digital image with the software and hardware settings for each of the plurality of servers, each design corresponding to a digital image for a respective network server, the plurality of servers having a different server type than the first server and operable to support dissimilar operations; and

deployment logic to deploy each of the respective digital images onto the plurality of servers without user intervention except to provide the number of WAN IP addresses, the second server accessible to network traffic via the first server.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium apparatus of claim 25, wherein the design rule logic determines how a server in a network can or cannot be employed in the network.

35. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium apparatus of claim 25, wherein the configuration logic installs network translation software on a third server in the network, wherein the network translation software routes data packets to and from a virtual IP address of the network.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for configuring and deploying network servers, the method comprising:

receiving a design list for a plurality of network servers, the design list comprising functions of a network, amount of hardware for the network, type of hardware for the network and number of WAN IP addresses assigned to the network;

generating a plurality of network designs for the plurality of network servers based upon a design rule and the design list, further comprising receiving a first network design of the plurality of network designs, and wherein the design rule determines a first server in the network is a gateway server layered in a network location, and wherein the gateway server is first in receiving all incoming data packets to the network;

configuring software settings for a plurality of network servers, at least two of which have different server functions, based upon a network design specifying functions of each of the plurality of network servers and a number of assigned WAN IP addresses, and based upon a

selected network topology, settings for each server being configured to implement the selected network topology and server function using the number of assigned WAN IP addresses;

building a respective configured digital image for each of the plurality of network servers by importing a generic digital image corresponding to a given server function and incorporating the corresponding software configuration settings to implement the selected network topology and server function; and

deploying each configured digital image to a corresponding one of the plurality of network servers; and

wherein building the respective configured digital image for each server and deploying each configured digital image is done without user intervention except to provide the number of WAN IP addresses.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for allowance is the fact that the prior art made of record fails to teach and/or suggest:

“A method, comprising:

receiving a design list for a plurality of network servers, the design list comprising functions of a network, amount of hardware for the network, type of hardware for the network and number of WAN IP addresses assigned to the network;

generating a plurality of network designs for the plurality of network servers based upon a design rule and the design list, further comprising receiving a first network design of the plurality of network designs, and wherein the design rule determines a first server in the network is a gateway server layered in a network location, and wherein the gateway server is first in receiving all incoming data packets to the network;

configuring software and hardware settings for the plurality of network servers in the network, the software and hardware settings including switches, jumpers, IP address, links, ports and values of software parameters, the configuration of the software and hardware settings based

upon the design rule and the first network design wherein the software and hardware settings are determined to provide cohesive network settings operable to interconnect the plurality of network servers;

building a respective digital image with the software and hardware settings for each of the plurality of servers, each design corresponding to a digital image for a respective network server, the plurality of servers having a different server type than the first server and operable to support dissimilar operations; and

deploying each of the respective digital images onto the plurality of servers without user intervention except to provide the number of WAN IP addresses”.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KAMAL B. DIVECHA whose telephone number is (571)272-5863. The examiner can normally be reached on IFP (M-F: 10-6.30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, JOHN FOLLANSBEE can be reached on 571-272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/John Follansbee/

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